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EVENING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY. 17TH MARCH. 1948.
MORNING PAPERS : THURSDAY. 18TH MARCH. 1948.
BROADCASTING STATIONS : 5 P.M. 17TH MARCH. 1948.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICSJANUARY - 1948SEASONAL DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT

The total number of wage and salary earners in employment (exclusive of rural industry employees and females in private domestic service) was 2,324,900 at the end of January, 1948. The decline of 4,100 compared with December was due mainly to seasonal lay-offs in clothing factories and of temporary staffs in retail stores. Male employment increased by 2,500 while female employment declined by 6,600.

DECLINE IN MOST STATES

The only states showing increases in employment were South Australia and Tasmania with small gains only. The numbers in employment declined by 2,300 in N.S.W. and 2,000 in Queensland.

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT

Commonwealth authorities' employees increased by 400 males and 400 females while State and Semi-Government employment expanded by 1,500 males. Local Government employees decreased by 900 males.

Private employment decreased by 5,600 persons, owing to a decline of 7,100 females partially offset by a rise of 1,500 males.

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - RISE IN TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION, DECLINE IN COMMERCE.

Most industrial groups showed little change from December levels, the only significant movements being a rise of 2,200 employees in transport and communication and a decline of 7,400 employees in Commerce. Groups showing small gains included manufacturing (all classes of factory combined) and banking and insurance.

Movements in individual factory classes were generally small. The metals, machines and vehicles group showed an increase of 2,800 (males +2,900, females - 100). The clothing and textiles groups combined showed a seasonal decline of 2,400 (all females). Total employment in food and drink factories remained steady but there occurred within this class seasonal movements - downward mainly in meat works and sugar mills and upward mainly in jam and fruit canning and grain milling and cereal foods factories.

The strike of Queensland railway workers commenced on 2nd February, 1948, and therefore did not affect January employment figures.

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